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In spite of these defects the book is worthy of a good deal of praise. The style of the author is vigorous and lucid ; his thought is judicious and impartial. Mr. Lowell has emancipated himself from the *doctrinaire* theory that nothing of good is to be found in the *ancien régime*. He criticizes the natural-law school from the standpoint of that era and not from that of modern historical evolution. Of the doctrines of this school he justly says: "They suited the stage of civilization which the world had reached. . . . Their very exaggeration was perhaps necessary to enable them to fight, and in a measure to supplant, the older doctrines which were in possession of the human mind." Mr. Lowell, however, has added but little to our positive knowledge of the period, though he has put many old facts into a new and occasionally a more accurate light. While in some respects his picture is more complete and impartial than that of Taine or de Tocqueville, Mr. Lowell, as regards brilliancy of expression, philosophic breadth, acuteness of analysis and originality of thought, can in no manner challenge comparison with these historians.

GEORGE LOUIS BEER.

*Formation of the Union, 1750-1829.* [Epochs of American History.] By ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. With Five Maps. New York and London, Longmans, Green & Co., 1892.—12mo, xx, 278 pp.

*The French War and the Revolution.* [The American History Series.] By WILLIAM MILLIGAN SLOANE. With Maps. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1893.—12mo, xxii, 409 pp.

The art of properly condensing history is such a difficult one that it is almost impossible to praise too highly a writer who, like Professor Hart, has succeeded so well in it. His volume on the *Formation of the Union* is the best piece of condensed historical writing that I am acquainted with. Apart from the excellent apparatus of maps, contents, index and bibliographies that will delight every teacher ; apart from the careful selection and arrangement of matter ; there is something that distinguishes this volume from nearly all others of its class. I mean its style, its manner of saying just the right thing in just the right way—in a word, its thorough readableness. There is not a dull page in it ; and, what is more remarkable, there is little or no evidence that the author has sacrificed or distorted the truth of history in order to make a

readable book. Here and there, perhaps, the critic can find occasion to pick a small quarrel; but I must confess that I had not read ten pages before I was in the admiring rather than in the critical mood.

Professor Hart treats his extensive subject in twelve chapters of moderate length. Those on "The Americans in 1750" and "The Expulsion of the French" are marvels of conciseness and lucidity. The third chapter, giving the "Causes of the Revolution," is refreshingly free from the blatant partisanship which such accounts are wont to show. It is pleasant to find such frank utterances as these :

The movement, started by a few seceders, carried with it a large body of men who were sincerely convinced that the British government was tyrannical. The majorities thus formed silenced the minority, sometimes by mere intimidation, sometimes by ostracism, often by flagrant violence. One kind of pressure was felt by old George Watson, of Plymouth, bending his bald head over his cane, as his neighbors, one by one, left the church in which he sat because they would not associate with a "mandamus councillor." A different argument was employed on Judge James Smith, of New York, in his coat of tar and feathers, the central figure of a shameful procession.

A dozen pages of rhetoric reciting the woes of the loyalists would not have given the reader as clear an insight into the most disgraceful phase of our revolutionary history as these two concrete incidents, cited so simply and appropriately by Professor Hart.

The history of the war for independence is given in the briefest outlines. One effect of this necessary compression is that the character of Washington does not stand out in as full relief as I should like to see it and as, I am sure, Professor Hart would desire to have it. Another is that such a brave and important exploit as that of George Rogers Clark is dismissed in half a sentence that does not contain the pioneer soldier's name. But we cannot expect everything; and it is well to have Professor Hart point out the assumption by the Continental Congress of the very powers which, when exercised by England, had caused the revolution.

In treating Madison's administrations I do not think that Professor Hart brings out all that may be said as to the uselessness of the War of 1812, and the unpleasant figure we cut by playing into the hands of Napoleon; but it is gratifying to find that he refrains from a pæan of glory over Jackson's victory at New Orleans. He closes his work with a general sketch of the elements of social, economic

and political reorganization that were manifest in the two decades succeeding the war.

Professor Sloane's book belongs to a series which is intended to be more exhaustive than that of which Professor Hart is the editor. Practically, he has three pages at his disposal to Professor Hart's one ; and this larger space, and the consequent sense of roominess, have had some effect upon both his style and his matter. His book is not wanting in what the French term *longueurs*. For example, he will often give several paragraphs to European affairs that might be recalled to the reader's mind by a sentence or a phrase ; but, perhaps, he can urge for this the popular character of the volume and the popular ignorance about such matters. Be this as it may, Professor Sloane is certainly a conscientious writer, who has studied his period well and has a broader grasp on the principles of general history than most specialists are wont to have. Many a paragraph will be found to furnish copious food for thought ; and such a masterly chapter as that on "The Peace of Versailles " would alone justify the existence of the book.

The volume opens with a description of the English people in the eighteenth century (the propriety of which in such a volume might be questioned), a good account of colonial institutions, and a sketch of the relations between the English and French in this country prior to 1756, with a brief but satisfactory description of the Indian tribes. Five chapters are then devoted to the details of the French and Indian War. Here Professor Sloane shows his powers of description at their best in his very excellent account of the capture of Quebec. His treatment, too, of the Peace of Paris is a great improvement on the usual method of popular historians, who are too apt to pay little or no attention to diplomatic details.

The account of the Revolutionary War occupies nearly half the volume. The treatment of the causes, if a little lengthy, is suggestive, and gives the British side with more than usual fullness and fairness. The strictly military details of the war are presented with much care.

Like Professor Hart, Mr. Sloane inclines to a nationalistic interpretation of the union formed by the colonies for mutual defence ; but he gives fuller weight than the former writer to the particularistic ideas and tendencies of the time that militate against such an interpretation. In view of these particularistic tendencies it seems rather impracticable to lay much stress on the nationality of a people who, in the mass, were more conscious of their separateness,

unless one is determined to solve constitutional questions after the cut-and-dried fashion adopted on the Northern side by Mr. Loring in his recent volume (*cf.* this *QUARTERLY* for September, 1893, p. 585), and on the Southern side by such writers as the late Mr. Stephens. Is it not time to give the constitutional lawyers a monopoly of such methods, and to turn over to them, at the same time, for exclusive use, Mr. Gladstone's famous saying?

Professor Sloane's concluding chapter, "Weakness and Strength," sums up the character of the government bequeathed us by the war. His judicious volume will contribute materially to the diffusion of a rational, as distinguished from the long current "jingoist," view of this whole period.

W. P. TRENT.

*The City-State of the Greeks and Romans.* By W. WARDE FOWLER, M.A. London and New York, Macmillan & Co., 1893. — Small 8vo, x, 332 pp.

Conceding the accuracy of the author's prefatory assertion in respect to this book, that "there is absolutely nothing new in it," very few readers, I think, will be disposed to quarrel with him for having put it in print. Ancient history and politics have never been *a priori* so attractive to students that any healthy stimulus to work in this field can be regarded as superfluous. Mr. Fowler's survey of the ancient state will hardly fail to attract any intelligent person who takes it up. It presents a sketch of all the salient points in the development, the structure, the action and the decay of the *πόλις* as a type of state life, and it presents this with a method that is most suggestive and in a style that is most readable.

The birth of the city-state in the East the author assigns to the dim centuries between Mycenæan and political Hellas; in the western peninsula, he finds that the date is absolutely unknown. In Hellas, he traces in broad outline the development of the system in Athens till the culmination in a perfect democracy; in Rome he follows the development to its climax in a perfect oligarchy. Democracy and oligarchy alike are then described in their decay, while the city-state sinks into the grave prepared for it by the empire.

The author's descriptions of institutions are concise but adequate; his analysis of social aims and tendencies shows sound historical judgment; his appreciation of the Athenian and Roman character is most sympathetic. It is possible that his enthusiasm for the age